

REMARKS

Claims 1-38 were pending prior to this amendment. In this amendment, claims 1, 3, 8 and 16 are amended and claims 2 and 21-38 are canceled without prejudice and may be re-filed in a continuing application. No new matter is being added.

Claims 21-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 251 for improper recapture. Because those claims are canceled, the rejection is moot for purposes of this application. However, the applicant disagrees with the rejection on the merits, and will address the rejection in the filing of a continuing reissue application that includes the rejected claims.

The examiner rejected the remaining claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious in view of various combinations of Willman et al., Whiting, Murphy et al., and official notice. The examiner further indicated that claims 2-6 and 8-13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In this amendment, claim 1 is amended to include the features of claim 2, which is now canceled. Claim 8 is rewritten in independent format. Claim 16 is rewritten to include features analogous to those of claim 2. As a result, independent claims 1, 8 and 16 now include subject matter the examiner has indicated is patentable. Dependent claims 3-7, 9-15 and 17-20 depend from patentable independent claims are thus also patentable. The rejection should therefore be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

If any matters remain outstanding prior to allowance, please do not hesitate to contact the attorney signing below.

Respectfully submitted,

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